

State Rehabilitation Council (SRC)
August 13, 2018 Meeting Minutes
Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR)

Meeting locations:

This meeting was held at:

Videoconferencing:

Delaware Department of Labor
Division of Vocational Rehabilitation
4425 N. Market Street
Wilmington, DE 19802

Delaware Department of Labor
Division of Vocational Rehabilitation
Blue Hen Corporate Center, Suite 2 H
Dover, DE 19901

SRC Council Members Present:

Monica Edgar - Acting Chair
Christina Andrews (teleconference) pending
Nicole Barr (Dover)
Ellen Coulston
Karen DiNardo
Alvin Emory
Lisa Furber
Emmanuel Jenkins (Dover)
Janie Libby (Dover)
Robin McKinney-Newman (pending)
Loretta Sarro
Alexia Wolf
Despina Wilson

General Attendees Present:

Sharon Boland – DVR
Erin Goldner
Andrea Guest – DVR
Jocelyn Langrehr
HarrietAnn Litwin – DVR

Special Guests: Dominique Truitt and Andrew Duncan, APEX Program Coordinators

Members Absent:

Jackie Poquette
Dale Matusevich

Welcome

Moni began the meeting at 12 p.m. by welcoming the group and thanking everyone for attending. The attendees self-introduced themselves. The motion to approve the April 2018 minutes was accepted.

SRC Elections

The group discussed elections for Chair and Vice Chair. Elections will be held at the October meeting for these positions. A nomination ballot will be sent out.

SRC Binder

Moni referred to a binder that she has discussed at past meetings. The binder will hold SRC documentation such as the calendar, meeting agendas, retreat information, membership, and SRC luncheon details.

2019 Retreat

The SRC will hold a retreat on February 11, 2019. The group will work on agenda.

SRC SPCD Representative

The group discussed a request for a SRC member to represent the committee on the State Council for Persons with Disabilities. Karen DiNardo volunteered; it was noted that her presence will give a Mental Health voice to the SCPD. Thanks, Karen!

Director's Report

Budget/Order of Selection

Andrea discussed the budget and how the 15% allotment to the Pre-Employment Transition Services has been a strain. She briefly discussed the Order of Selection and the waiting list, noting that there are about 400 people waiting. Andrea noted that she spends time working to get more funding.

Adult Placement Services RRP

A Request for Proposal (RFP) for DVR Adult Placement Services was posted in early July and will close on August 20.

Transition Conference

Please save December 12 for the Annual Transition conference. Ellen Coulston is managing the conference again this year. Changes to this year's event include earlier registration, registration closing after a specific date, and social media on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram.

Training Programs for PWD

Andrea discussed the relationships we are building with local businesses to create training programs for people with disabilities and noted a recent meeting with Barclay's as an example.

ACT Teams

Jocelyn is working with the ACT Teams, doing planning and reorganizing to better serve this population.

New Computers

By state mandate, all state employees will receive new computers in 2019. DVR will be paying approximately \$250,000 for this equipment.

Order of Selection

The group discussed Order of Selection. Andrea noted that there are three categories:

1) Most Significant Disabilities, 2) Significant Disabilities, and 3) Non-Significant Disabilities. Categories 2 and 3 are currently closed. DVR encourages people that we cannot serve right away to go to other sources such as the One-Stop and Goodwill Industries. However, before they do so, we still encourage them to apply for our services because services are provided based on the dates of application.

APEX Presentation

Dominique Truitt and Andrew Duncan, APEX Program Coordinators, gave a brief presentation about the Advancement through Pardons and Expungements (APEX) Program.

The APEX program serves the public; the purpose of the program is to help people clear their criminal records at the state level. Andrew noted that there is a serious need for this service.

The program's eligibility requirements: Participants must be over 18, be out of the State's criminal justice system for three years, and not on parole for at least three years.

If the participant is a DVR consumer, the APEX program can often pay for the related expenses such as fingerprints, court fees, and filing fees. The process takes about a year after the application is submitted. The majority of the people are approved. A pardon restores a person's right to vote, and changes the record. Once a person receives a pardon, they can apply for an expungement. A pardon will remain on the record. People who have received a pardon are encouraged to tell future employers, "Yes, I have a record but I was pardoned." Expungement will clear the record. People who have received an expungement do not need to mention it at any time to future or present employers.

Andrew also noted that when people are successful with clearing their record, it helps them to break barriers so they can get better housing, jobs, and often lead to a better life.

Dominique and Andrew present weekly information sessions about the program in Wilmington and Dover, and also present special events as outreach.

SRC Luncheon

Please reserve Monday, December 10 for the Annual SRC Awards Luncheon. The event will be held at Dover Downs as usual.

SRC Annual Report

Andrea asked about the SRC report, HarrietAnn noted that she typically works with several members to complete sections. We will discuss the report at the next meeting.

Membership

There was a discussion and review of members that have not been approved by the Governor. Sharon will check with Ray Lewis on the status.

The meeting adjourned at 1:30 p.m.

-END-

The next meeting is October 8 in the Blue Room at the Department of Labor's Fox Valley Location in Wilmington

2018 Meeting Schedule

December 10 – SRC Luncheon, Dover Downs